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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION - CHILE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

On January 18, conservative, influential newspaper-of-record "El Mercurio" (circ. 116,807) carried a column by international pundit Karin Ebensperger entitled, "Opposition and Democracy in the World."
Quote:

"The election in Chile made international news because it was the first time a woman in South America reached the presidency and the level of democracy achieved by Chileans is recognized as a regional example. Nevertheless, Chile can still improve a key aspect: the role the system assigns to the opposition... The most notable example is Great Britain...in which the State grants a salary to the opposition leader: they pay him for his opposition. Another country with great political stability...is the United States. Its system aims to prevent that those who lose an election be crushed while a central government becomes omnipotent.... Since its return to democracy, Chile has had a reasonable and even collaborative opposition but a more inclusive system would be beneficial so that in the future those who do not come to power may systematically contribute to development."

KELLY